

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049743

64

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 /040 R

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COM/BIC/CAGNE/PHALE

NEA/RA/HMONTGOMERY (INFO)

NEA/ARN/MMAUGHAN (INFO)

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O 012238Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 049743

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EG, JO, IZ

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF GOVERNOR ARTHUR LINK OF NORTH DAKOTA

1. A COMBINED STATE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE TEAM BRIEFED GOVERNOR ARTHUR LINK OF NORTH DAKOTA AND HIS STAFF ON FEBRUARY 25TH IN THE DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE STATE'S PLANNED MISSION TO CAIRO AND AMMAN BEGINNING MARCH 9 IN CAIRO AND PROCEEDING TO AMMAN ON MARCH 16. BRIEFING COVERED POLITICAL SITUATION AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND LAND USAGE AND RECLAMATION. DURING COURSE OF BRIEFING THE PURPOSE AND LENGTH VISIT TO AMMAN WAS REVIEWED AND CONSENSUS WAS THAT A SIX DAY VISIT WAS TOO LONG AND THAT TIME MIGHT BE BETTER SPENT VISITING BAGHDAD IN LIGHT OF LARGE AGRICULTURE MARKET THERE. AMMAN 1012 NOTAL HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED IN TIME FOR BRIEFING BUT WAS PASSED TO NORTH DAKOTA STAFF TODAY.

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THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE WOULD REASSESS VISIT AMMAN IN

LIGHT OF BRIEFING UPON HIS RETURN TO BISMARCK.

2. ADVANCEMEN MICHAEL SABA AND MARK GHALY WILL ARRIVE CAIRO ON MARCH 2. PROPOSE MEETING IN EMBASSY ON MARCH 3 WITH COMATT. USDOC SENDING RTDO DIRECTOR LEFEAVER TO CAIRO AND OTHER STOPS AS NEEDED TO ASSIST INEXPERIENCED TEAM IN PROGRAMMING VISIT SO AS TO MINIMIZE WORKLOAD ON COMMERCIAL

STAFFS.

3. FOR BAGHDAD. BASED ON PRELIMINARY INTEREST SHOWN BY GOVERNOR TOWARD BAGHDAD VISIT WE ARE REPEATING STATE 040156 AND 040130 FOR YOUR BACKGROUND MATERIAL. SABA INDICATED AT THE FEBRUARY 25 MEETING THAT HIS CURRENT PLANS INCLUDED VISIT TO BAGHDAD SENT MARCH 6-8 TO INVESTIGATED MARKET FOR NORTH DAKOTA PRODUCT. SABA INDICATED ALSO THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH IRAQI

INTEREST SECTION WHICH OFFERED ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE. AS PLANS BECOME MORE FIRM POST WILL BE ADVISED. INGERSOLL

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